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# THE WALTER AND ELIZA HALL INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL RESEARCH

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DIRECTOR: PROFESSOR G. J. V. NOSSAL, C.B.E., F.R.S.

10th November, 1971

Professor Joshua Lederberg,  
Department of Genetics,  
Stanford University School of Medicine,  
PALO ALTO, California, U. S. A.

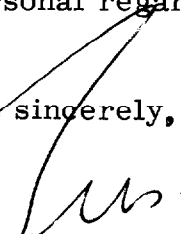
Dear Josh,

It will probably not surprise you to learn that the paper by Merrill et al. (Nature 233, 398, 1971) has really put the cat among the pigeons down here in Australia. In their ignorance, many of the powers that be are turning to me for an expression of opinion about the work. If you have a minute or two, you might tell me what you think of it. Specifically, are there any serious technical faults in the experimental protocol, and what about the mechanism by which a phage enters a human cell? My scanty knowledge has not been able to pick any faults, and I find it difficult to conceal a feeling of very considerable excitement about the work.

We have had an excellent year at the Institute, and have just about wrapped up the question of collaboration between T and B lymphocytes - it is an amusing story and I hope shall have the chance of telling you about it in the not too distant future.

With all best wishes and personal regards from the whole family.

Yours sincerely,

  
Gus Nossal

It would be marvellous to see you back in Australia one of these years! We have bought a little farm on the Mornington Peninsula not too far from where we went together to Arthur's Seat. Remember when I asked you whether they had dirt roads in USA? 5-

NOSSAL, G.